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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 11
REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 27 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of December 1997 under the presidency of Costa Rica, in accordance with the agreement contained in the note by the President of the Security Council of 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451), together with an introductory note.

This assessment has been made under my responsibility. It is intended to have an informative purpose and should not necessarily be considered as representing the views of the Security Council or of its members.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 11, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL-SOTO
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 6 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations

I have the pleasure to enclose the assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of December 1997, which my delegation has prepared under my responsibility in accordance with the note of the President of the Security Council of 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451).

Please note that this document has not been agreed among Council members. The assessment of the work represents the views of the Costa Rican delegation while exercising the presidency of the Security Council for the month of December 1997 and not the views of the members of the Council.

My delegation is pleased that this practice has been adopted and that it has been followed by the majority of the members of the Council, making it a means of informing the entire membership of the United Nations about the activities the Security Council undertakes.

(Signed) Fernando BERROCAL-SOTO
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

APPENDIX

Introduction

This document contains the report prepared by the Delegation of Costa Rica while exercising the Presidency of the Security Council of the United Nations during the month of December 1997 and has been prepared under the responsibility of Ambassdor Fernando Berrocal-Soto, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica. This document should not be considered to represent the views of the Security Council nor of its Members.

During the month of December, the Council held nine formal meetings and an open debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Dr. Fernando Naranjo Villalobos presided over the formal meeting and open debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina on December 19. During the Presidency of Costa Rica the Council adopted five resolutions and four presidential statements.

General Comments

The Presidency of Costa Rica endeavored to work on the basis of the principles of transparency and openness. In this regard, it followed the practice of adding, when possible, to the agenda of informal consultations published in the daily journal of the United Nations the issues to be taken up under the item of other matters. At the same time, it briefed the Delegations Members of the Organizations immediately after consultations of the Council had taken place. The President gave statements to the press after the informal consultations of the whole regarding the items taken up, as advised by the Members of the Security Council.

The Presidency of Costa Rica gave particular attention to the issue of "working methods of the Security Council" and included on agenda for December the holding of informal consultations of the whole on this matter. During that meeting, the elected members of the Security Council presented for the consideration of the Council a "position paper on the working methods of the Security Council" annexed to a letter, dated 22 of December 1997, which contains a series of comments and proposals for the democratization and improvement of the methods of work and desicion making in this principal organ of the United Nations.

It is the opinion of the Delegation of Costa Rica that this issue constitutes a key element in for the reform of the Security Council, which is being discussed in the Open-Ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, of the General Assembly. Costa Rica considers that the reform of the methods of work of the Security Council and approval of its definitive rules of procedure constitutes a most important element of the process of reform of the Security Council. In this regard, the position paper prepared by the elected members of the Council, which is attached to this document, is of extreme importance.

Like in the previous months, African issues dominated the agenda of the Council. Some other issues of especial importance like the situation in Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Croatia, Cyprus, Afghanistan and Tajikistan were also subject of discussions.

1-Working Methods of the Security Council

On December 23, members of the Security Council met in informal consultations of the whole on the working methods of the Security Council and discussed the position paper prepared by ten of its member on that issue, which was annexed to a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council dated 22 December 1997. Some members stressed the fact the they were presenting only preliminary views.

Some members questioned the convenience of discussing this issue when it was being discussed both by the Open-Ended Working Group on the Reform of the Security Council and by the Charter Committee. They argued that it might be prudent to wait for a conclusion of the discussions that were being held at those other organs. Other members pointed out that the Security Council is the master of its own procedure and that, in consequence, it has the right and the obligation to consider any possible improvements to its methods of work.

Some of the authors of the proposal expressed that it was directed to improve the efficiency of the decision-making procedures of the Security Council and to increase the transparency and democracy in its action. It was mentioned that an improvement in the methods of work could increase the legitimacy and the leadership of the Security Council action before the International Community. Those members further explained that there are loopholes in the current provisional rules of procedure and that it is necessary to respect fully both the letter and the spirit of the provisions of the Charter regarding the procedure of the Security Council. They also stressed the need to adopt definitive rules of procedure for the Security Council.

Some members recognized the importance of ensuring the proper balance between the goal of transparency and the need for efficiency in the working of the Security Council. In this regard, some members stressed that the delicate nature of the issues regarding international peace and security and the crisis circunstances that usually surround the items in the agenda of the Security Council require a particular degree of confidentiality and efficiency.

Some members also mentioned that some of the proposals included in the position paper were already in practice, while much of the success of the Security Council during the last years was due to the consensus procedure usually used according to which agreements are made confidenctially instead of having procedural disputes in formal meetings. Some members insisted that a realistic approach must be used in order to reform the working methods of the Security Council and that any reform of those procedures requires the agreement of all members.

Several members presented diverging views regarding the modalities for the participation of States non members of the Security Council and of Non Governmental Organizations in its work.

It was decided that the Informal Working Group of the Security Council concerning the Council's Documentation and Other Procedural Questions would continue to consider these issues.

2-AFRICA

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On December 3, Assistant Secretary General Fall briefed Council Members on the status of the investigative team. After overcoming the difficulties with the authorities in Kinshasa, the Secretary-General sent a letter to President Kabila expressing to him gratitude for receiving the team and for allowing them to perform their respective mandate. In his letter, the Secretary-General informed that, because of the delay in the deployment of the investigative team, its mandate needed to be extended until May 1998.

Regarding the current situation in the DRC, Mr. Fall added the Government of President Kabila had established a liaison committee to work with the investigative team and that a Conference of the Friends of the DRC was scheduled to take place in Brussels on the 4 of December. This

Conference was going to discuss further aid in the economic and social fields. The United Nations was going to be represented by the UNDP.
Regarding the political situation the Government was not allowing the participation of opposition political parties. The economic crisis was affecting the security situation in the DRC since there were no funds to pay civil servants.
The Delegations of the Council Members expressed their concern with the situation.

Rwanda

On December 8, the President of the International Tribunal, Mr. Laity Kama, was invited to address the Council Members during informal consultations of the whole.

Mr. Kama provided a brief history of the Tribunal and emphasized on the tribunal's need for additional resources and personnel in order to work effectively. He reminded the members that the Council, in resolution 955(1994) which established the Tribunal, decides to consider increasing the number of judges and Trial Chambers if it becomes neccesary. He added that, to that date, 23 persons had been indicted in Arusha and that, due to the cooperation of several states, a number high ranking officials had been captured and were awaiting trial.
Mr. Kama referred to his request for the creation of a new chamber and for hiring more personnel. He also mentioned the possibility of hiring ad-hoc judges, which that could be less expensive. At the time, two trials were taking place in the permanent chamber, and a third one was being held the provisional chamber. A second permanent chamber is scheduled to be constructed this year in order to hear three trials at the same time.
Mr. Kama made special emphasis to the problems regarding the protection of witnesses, necessary before, during and after the trial.
Delegations of the Council Members agreed to continue consultations for the consideration of this matter.

On December 15th, Assistant Secretary General Fall briefed Council Members on the massacre of 300 people in Mundede. Mr. Fall explained that the political situation in Rwanda needed to be taken into account. He pointed out that special attention should be given to the economic and social impact of the return of over a million refugees, many of whom bring arms with them, the fact that a minority composed of the 15% of the population rules over the majority, the tension between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the uncontrolled ethnic problem.
The President of the Council delivered a press statement expressing the members' concerns regarding the deterioration of the situation in Rwanda and urging the Government to respect Human Rights and to cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Angola

On December 10th, Under Secretary General Miyet presented the report of the Secretary-General (S/1997/954).
Since the date when the report was issued, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Metre Beye, met with President Dos Santos to evaluate the progress of the peace process. The meeting between President Dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi had not been scheduled. The movement of MONUA's personnel continued to be restricted, and they faced problems in carryng out their mandate. MONUA continued to monitor the disarmament process and, on December 8, ended the demining process . The members of the Council agreed with the reccomendations of the Secretary-General and stressed that a dialogue between the parties needed to be established.

Central African Republic

On December 10th, Under Secretary General Miyet presented the report from the International Monitoring Committee (S/1997/954). He highlighted the most important points of that report and the success of preventive diplomacy. The problems of internal security needed to be solved in order to allow the implemetation of the Bangui agreements. The repatriation of refugees to the Republic of Congo had started. A multidisciplinary mission formed by technical officers from several UN departments had gone to the CAR a week before to evaluate the situation, especially in its military aspect. A follow up was going to be given by high level officers and leaders of the region and a final report was to be presented to the Council in January.

The President delivered a press statement urging the parties in CAR to comply with the Bangui Agreements and to cooperate with MISAB.

Burundi

On December 11th, the Members of the Security Council was briefed by Under Secretary-General Prendergast. He explained that the situation had been eased after the Dar-es-Salam Summit in September 1997 and that a new phase had began. Political tensions continued in the community as well as between the Parliament and the Government. The main concern at the time was the deterioration of the relations between Tanzania and Burundi.

The Arusha process was stalled and former President Nyerere, the head mediator, expressed that he will not continue his mediating efforts until Burundi was willing to cooperate. The Government of Burundi requested the establishment of an International Tribunal but this proposal was not been considered. In the meantime, trials and executions continue under the local judicial system.

The Secretary-General decided to send a fact finding mission to the border between Tanzania and Burundi. Burundi agreed to allow the mission to carry out their investiagations while Tanzania requested more clarification on its purpose.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs sent a mission to investigate the impact of the regional sanctions on the population.

The Members of the Council expressed their concern for the impasse in the negotiation process.

The President made a statement to the press on this matter.

Sierra Leone

On December 11th, Under Secretary General Miyet presented the report of the Secretary-General (S/1997/958).

Mr.Miyet said that there were problems with the implementation of the military aspects of the Conakry Agreements and that, although there was a cease fire in place, the fighting continued, mainly between the RUF and the Kamajors.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Okello, was scheduled to meet in Abuja with the Foreign Minister of Nigeria, the Executive Secretary of the ECOWAS and with the Head of ECOMOG. He was also supposed to attend the meeting of the Committee of Five of ECOWAS in Lome.

In his report, the Secretary-General recommended opening an office in Freetown to cover the military, political and humanitarian problems and to work with all the parties.

The Security Council supported the recomendations of the Secretary-General and the work of the Special Envoy.

The President made a statement to the press on this issue.

Liberia

On December 15th, Assistant Secretary General Fall briefed the Council Members on the recent events in Liberia. He informed that the policy of reconciliation continued under the Government of President Taylor and that all political parties had occupied their seats in the legislative bodies. Many opposition leaders had been appointed to high level positions.

He also informed that there were tensions between the Government of Liberia and ECOWAS.

Mr. Fall indicated that the United Nations office was going to be open in 1998 and Mr. Felix Dorsen Thomas was appointed Representative of Secretary-General to Liberia.

The Council requested that the Secretariat provide a report of the impact of the situation in the region and the lifting of the arms embargo in Liberia.

Somalia

The Council Members received a briefing from the Secretariat, as well as from the Egyptian Permanent Representative, on the outcome of the Cairo Conference.

On December 23rd, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/1997/57). The Council welcomed the agreements reached at the conference, as well as other efforts made by the countries of the region and international and regional organizations. It the same statement the Council also urged the parties to comply with the Cairo Accords, and reiterated its call upon States to fulfill their obligations to implement the general embargo imposed by resolution 733 (1992).

3-EUROPE

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

On December 3rd, the Members of the Security Council discussed the report of the Secretary General (S/1997/911) and add.1. The Delegation of Portugal as a coordinator of the CCP introduced a draft resolution.

On December 4, the Security Council met in a formal meeting and adopted resolution 1142(1997) in which the Council extended the mandate of UNPREDEP for a final period until 31 August 1998.

Croatia

On December 4th, the Security Council Members examined the report of the Secretary General on the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium, (S/1997/953).

Under Secretary General Miyet informed the Security Council Members of the Secretary General's recommendations on the establishment of a civilian component of 180 men after the mandate of UNTAES finished on January 15, 1998.

On December 19, the Security Council met in a formal meeting and adopted resolution 1145(1997) approving a new civilian component for a 9 months period beginning on January 16, 1998.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On December 16th, the Security Council Members examined the report of the Secretary General on the United Nations Mission on Bosnia and Herzegovina, (S/1997/966).

Assistant Secretary General Annabi, explained the situation in the country and the recommendations of the Secretary-General. He highlighted two main issues: Judicial reform and financial crimes. He also indicated that the Bonn Conference on these issues had taken place.

Portugal as coordinator of the CCP prepared a draft resolution on the extention of the mandate of UNMIBH. During consultations, the Members of the Council decided to hold an open debate on this issue.

On December 18th, the Security Council met in a formal meeting and held an open debate on Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the general debate, the Security Council adopted resolution 1144(1997) approving the extention of UNMIBH for an additional 6 months period until June 21, 1998.

Cyprus

On December 2nd, Mr. Diego Cordovez, the Special Representantive of the Secretary General in Cyprus, briefed the Security Council Members on the current situation in Cyprus.

Mr. Cordovez informed the Security Council Members that on the five main issues to be discussed once the negotiations between the parties were to be resumed: the Constitution, security, territorial issues, displaced persons and properties, and economic and financial cooperation.

The Security Council Members also examined the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operations in Cyprus (S/1997/962), and the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices on Cyprus (S/1997/973).

On December 23rd, the Security Council adopted resolution 1146(1997) approving the extension of the mandate of UNFICYP for an additional 6 month period, until June 30, 1998.

4-MIDDLE EAST

Iraq

During December, the Security Council Members held 5 meetings of informal consultations of the whole on Iraq.

"Oil for Food"

The Secretary General submitted a report (S/1997/935) to the Council Members in which he recommended an extension of resolution 986(1995).

On December 4, the Secretary-General briefed the Council Members on this matter. Council members discussed a draft resolution on Iraq, considering the extension of resolution 986 (1995). After informal consultations, the Members of the Council adopted a roll-over resolution 1143(1997), in which it decided to extend the mandate of the disposition of resolution 986 for an additional period of 180 days. The President of the Security Council made a press statement to the press following that meeting.

Special Commission (UNSCOM)

The Security Council paid close attention to the developments regarding the activities of the Special Commission and acted upon them.

On December 3, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/1997/54) where it endorsed the conclusions and reccomendations of the report of the emergency session of the Special Commission aimed at full and expeditious implementation of the relevant resolutions and at increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of UNSCOM work to this end. It reiterated its demand for Iraq to fulfill all its obligations established under the relevant resolutions, cooperate fully with UNSCOM and the IAEA, and provide all the information requested by UNSCOM. Immediate and unrestricted access to all sites was again demanded. The members also welcomed the progress achieved by UNSCOM and the IAEA in some disarmament areas.

On December 8th, Council members were briefed by Ambassador Butler, Executive Chairman of UNSCOM, regarding his next visit to Baghdad. During the discussions, Council members expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Special Commission and its Executive Chairman, and expressed their full support for its coming mission. The President made a statement to the press after the consultations.

On December 18th, once Ambassador Butler had returned from his trip to Baghdad, he presented a report on the outcome of his mission to Iraq. Ambassador Butler informed Council Members that he was planning his next visit to Baghdad on January 19. The delegations presented their comments and planned to hold further consultations. The President made a statement to the press after the consultations.

Ambassador Butler briefed the Council members again on December 20, regarding some talking points provided by the by the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the members of the Council on the progress of the conversations between UNSCOM and the Iraqi authorities, in response to Ambassador Butler's report.

On December 22nd, the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/1997/56), in which it reiterated its demands that Iraq should cooperate fully with the Special Commission in accordance with the relevant resolutions, and that Iraq should grant immediate and unconditional access to the Special Commission inspection teams. The Security Council stressed that failure by Iraq to provide this access is unacceptable. It acknowledge that discussions between the UNSCOM and the Iraqi officials were continuing on practical arrangements for implementation of all its relevant resolutions. It also expressed its full support to the Special Commission and its Executive Chairman, including the ongoing discussions with the Iraqi officials

5-ASIA

Afghanistan

On December 15th, 1997, during an informal meeting, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Brahimi, updated the Security Council Members on the situation in Afghanistan since the last report of the Secretary General was issued. He said that the Talibans continue to rule two thirds of the territory and there had been no changes in the military situation. He pointed out that it was expected that the winter would prevent the factions to engage in major fights. He said that there continue to be problems in the leadership, confrontation grew between the two main leaders (Dustom and Malik). A positive event was the exchange of war prisoners between the two factions.

The bodies of 2,000 Taliban soldiers were found. Mr. Brahimi said that it was believed that General Malik was responsible for their death. A Mission was sent to investigate this crime. The human rights situation kept deteriorating and the Talibans continued to prevent the proper distribution of humanitarian assistance. He informed that drug production and trafficking continued.

On December 16th, 1997, the Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement on Afghanistan (S/PRST/1997/55), in which it reiterated its grave concern on the political, military and human rights situation in this country.

Tajikistan

On December 18th, 1997, Assistant Secretary General Annabi, briefed the Security Council Memberson the worsening of the security situation in Tajikistan, the security of the international personnel and humanitarian workers, and the hostage taking incidents that continued to occur in the region. The Members of the Council received information on the killing of a French relief worker.

The members of the Security Council expressed their concern for the delays in the implementation of the peace process and for the possible delays in the steps leading to the holding of free elections. The Members of the Council welcomed the success of the Vienna Donors Conference

The Members of the Security Council also called upon all the parties involved to be more active in fulfilling their commitments undertaken in the peace process and to refrain from any activities that would impede its implementation. They also made an appeal to the two parties to ensure the security of the United Nations' personnel and of all the international personnel.

A press statement was made.

ATTACHMENT

Position paper on working methods of the Security Council

1. The Security Council should proceed to finalize its provisional rules of procedure, including the new methods of work and the new practices which have been agreed upon and are being implemented, without prejudice to further improvement of the working methods of the Council and their flexible application.

2. Open public meetings should be held at any stage of the consideration of a subject, in lieu of informal consultations of the whole. Whenever necessary, the Council could meet in private formal sessions. Written records should be ensured for formal sessions of the Council, public or private. Informal consultations of the whole could be held whenever necessary but not as the main way for the Council to conduct its business. Orientation debates previously announced and with the participation of States not members of the Council should be held prior to the Council's taking a decision on a particular matter.

3. The Security Council should apply strictly the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Council's of procedure, particularly those related to ensuring that any Member of the United Nations and any State which is not a member of the United Nations as well as members of the Secretariat or any other person may participate or be invited to participate, as appropriate, in the discussion of any item before the Council and be given adequate opportunity to address the Council in an appropriate forum.

4. The Security Council should consider allowing States non-members of the Council to make statements at the meetings in which a statement is made by the President on behalf of members of the Council.

5. Meetings held under the Arria formula are designed to allow members of the Council to obtain information related to issues under consideration from any source, not least of a non-governmental nature. "Arria" meetings are not the privileged format for the Council to meet with representatives of States; formal meetings of the Council, according to the Charter and the existing provisional rules, are. By virtue of their informal character, "Arria" meetings do not require formal acquiescence by all members of the Council. However, all Security Council members should be encouraged to participate.

6. Briefings by the Secretary-General or any United Nations official acting on his behalf should, as appropriate, be made at a formal meeting of the Security Council in public or private session in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. Written records of such briefings should therefore be ensured.

7. Before the Security Council imposes sanctions on any member State or reviews sanctions imposed on any State, a formal meeting of the Council should be held as a general rule where opportunity should be given to the State or States concerned or the State under sanctions as well as other neighbouring and

interested States to present their views in accordance with Articles 31 and 32 of the Charter at an appropriate time.

8. Briefings by the President of the Security Council to the general membership should be substantive and conducted promptly after each informal consultation of the whole, including information on draft resolutions and/or presidential statements under consideration at such consultations. Members of the Security Council should be encouraged to follow a transparent approach with other States not members of the Security Council concerning the work of the Council with a view to benefiting from their views on subject matters under consideration.

9. The Sanctions Committees should further enhance transparency in their work through publishing the summary records for each meeting of the committees in a timely manner.

10. Consultations with troop-contributing countries should ensure more active participation of members of the Council as well as troop-contributing States through:

(a) The participation of potential troop contributors and other substantial contributors in the consultations in the preparatory phase of each operation as well as when the mandates of the operations are extended or changed;

(b) The preparation of a summary of the troop contributor consultations to be made available to all Member States; and

(c) The holding of presidential briefings for the general membership on the results of troop contributors' meetings.

11. Agenda items of formal Council meetings and informal consultations of the whole published in the Journal should be more specific.

12. The Council should make a tentative forecast of its programme of work more available to the general membership, as stated in the noted by the President in his note dated 27 July 1993, preferably as a document of the Security Council, and include the provisional monthly programme of work of the Security Council. In this regard, the Council should consider the programme of work for the month in a formal session.

13. An effective mechanism should be established to alert States non-members of the Council of emergency, previously unscheduled and/or weekend meetings of the Security Council. The Secretariat should undertake the necessary measures to this end.

14. The descriptive part of the annual report of the Council should include a factual summary of the discussions at the consultations of the whole on all issues considered by the Council, as well as a summary of the deliberations of the Sanctions Committees. Information regarding the substantive work of the subsidiary organs of the Council, including the Sanctions Committees, should be included in the annex to the annual report.

15. The Security Council should consider implementing the provisions of Article 24, paragraph 3, 22 December 1997, of the Charter by presenting special reports, when necessary, to the General Assembly. The Security Council should identify such necessary cases taking into account all relevant factors.

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Agenda items 36, 37 and 87
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 1 April 1998 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to follow up my previous letters regarding the reckless statements being constantly made by officials of the Israeli Government, which serve only to further damage the fragile fabric of the Middle East peace process and clearly demonstrate the established policy of this Government to continue violating international law and United Nations resolutions.

On Tuesday, 31 March 1998, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, visited an illegal Israeli settlement in the West Bank, Maale Adumim, where he proceeded to call the settlement a "part of greater Jerusalem" and stated "we are putting efforts into the growth of this place". The promotion of ideas such as "greater Jerusalem" or "greater Israel" should be condemned in the strongest possible terms, as they are obvious reflections of expansionist colonialist policies. These recent statements are in direct violation of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the status of Jerusalem and in defiance of the position of every single other Member State of the United Nations. Such statements also violate the agreements reached between the two sides, which leave the future of Jerusalem subject to negotiations between the two sides during the final status stage.

It is also relevant to note that the above statements were made only one day after the conclusion of the visit to the region by the Special Envoy to the Middle East peace process of the United States of America, Mr. Dennis Ross, which did not produce any tangible results owing to continuing intransigence by

Israel and attempts to evade its obligations under the agreements reached. Clearly, these statements only reaffirm Israeli negative intentions in this regard.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 2 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 2 April 1998 from His Excellency Mr. Glafcos Clerides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-09460 (E) 030498

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ANNEX

Letter dated 2 April 1998 from the President of Cyprus to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 19 March 1998, addressed to you by Ambassador Tuluy Tanç, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations, which was circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/52/384-S/1998/255). Annexed to that letter there is a text described by the Turkish Chargé d'affaires as a "letter dated 5 March 1998 from His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" addressed to me, as well as a "summary of the statement made by President Denktaş in connection with the peace initiative of the Turkish Cypriot side for the settlement of the Cyprus issue".

The transmission and circulation by the Turkish Representative of the aforementioned material is an example of how a Member of the United Nations, by abusing a privilege derived from membership, promotes aims and objectives that are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The material in question emanates from a secessionist entity proclaimed as illegal by Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984) as well as by subsequent resolutions. These resolutions, inter alia, "call upon all States not to recognize the purported State of the 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' set up by secessionist acts and ... not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity". It should be pointed out that this secessionist entity has been recognized only by Turkey, the country that created and maintains it, through the use of military force and in total disregard for the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Turkey's contempt for international legality is also exemplified by its failure to fulfil its obligations derived from the 1960 Agreements establishing the Republic of Cyprus. Under the Treaty of Guarantee, Turkey, together with Greece and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, recognize and guarantee the independence, territorial integrity and security of the Republic of Cyprus. As a result of the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey and the continuing occupation of 37 per cent of Cyprus' territory by Turkish troops, Turkey turned from a guarantor Power of Cyprus' independence into an aggressive occupying Power, violating and threatening what in fact it was mandated to protect and respect under the 1960 Agreements.

The title accorded to Mr. Denktash by Turkey and mentioned in the Turkish Chargé d'affaires' letter is consistent with Turkey's policy attempting to legitimize in international forums the illegal secessionist entity, and those purporting to represent it in order to undermine Cyprus' independence. Mr. R. Denktash's one and only representative capacity is that of leader of the Turkish Cypriot community in representing his community in the efforts to reach a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus problem under the auspices of the United Nations and your mission of good offices, as provided for in the pertinent United Nations resolutions. In this respect your statement made in Geneva on 28 March, after your meeting with Mr. Denktash, by which you expressed the United Nations position on this very issue is pertinent and timely.

I do not consider it proper to comment on the contents of a letter I refused to receive for reasons of principle and order. I do however consider it appropriate to make some general observations relating to the Turkish Chargé d'affaires' document in its totality, irrespective of the signatories or authors of its various parts, since it contains the official position of the Turkish Government on the issues raised in it.

There exists one State in Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus, established under international agreements, with its fundamental rights to independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Turkish invasion of Cyprus and the continuing occupation of almost 37 per cent of its territory have in no way affected or could affect the international legal status of the Republic of Cyprus.

As provided in United Nations Security Council resolution 939 (2) of 29 July 1994, reaffirmed ever since, "a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and international personality and a single citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, and comprising two politically equal communities as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions in a bicommunal and bizonal federation, and that such a settlement must exclude union in whole or in part with any other country or any form of partition or secession".

The aforementioned Security Council resolutions are binding on all States, including of course the Republic of Turkey.

The parameters of the solution of the Cyprus problem are clearly and unambiguously defined and set in the Security Council resolutions, which, together with the 1977 and 1979 High-level Agreements, constitute the only basis for any negotiated settlement of the problem.

If the Turkish side sincerely wishes to ally itself with the international community in the efforts to find a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem, there is no other way than to respect and adhere to international legality and to what has already been agreed. The Turkish attempt to change the basis of the negotiations, strikes at the heart of the negotiating process with unforeseen consequences not only for Cyprus but for peace and stability in the region. We feel that the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and stability, should reconfirm its commitment to a peaceful solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of its own resolutions, and the High-level Agreements and, in this framework, urge the Turkish side to return to the negotiating process.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, like any other Government, has both the right and the duty to ensure the security of its people. As a sovereign and independent State, the Republic of Cyprus takes what steps are needed to protect its territory from further Turkish aggression. The reaction of Turkey to the upgrading of Cyprus' defence capabilities has the sole intention of maintaining the largely imbalanced military status quo on the island, which the Security Council has unequivocally considered unacceptable.

The defensive intentions of my Government, with regard to the S-300 missile system, have been made very clear all along. Cyprus has repeatedly stressed that the system is in no way intended against any country or the Turkish Cypriots.

The undisputed proof of Cyprus' intentions lies in my proposal for the complete demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus made in November 1993, which addresses the security concerns of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The proposal, if accepted by Turkey, would remove the reason that necessitated the general effort to improve my country's defence capabilities.

The people of Cyprus are looking forward to the future. A future with no foreign troops of occupation, a future with no refugees, a future with no missing persons, a future in a united country where all Cypriots, irrespective of religion or ethnic origin can live and work in peace with dignity, mutual respect and security.

The ideas and ways of yesterday will not lead the people of Cyprus towards the realization of the Cyprus they want to build. Yesterday's ideas and ways are the recipe for new suffering and even for a total catastrophe.

We all should look to the future. And the future of Cyprus lies with the family of the nations of Europe. I take this opportunity to appeal once again to my Turkish Cypriot compatriots to join this noble effort.

(Signed) Glafcos CLERIDES
President of the Republic of Cyprus

United Nations A/52/864

General Assembly

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2 April 1998

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Fifty-second session
Agenda item 153

Human resources management

Actions taken against staff resulting from findings of malpractice discovered by the Board of Auditors

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In section VII (c) of its resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly a report on the appropriate action taken against personnel responsible for malpractices identified by the Board of Auditors.

2. Instances of financial malpractice that are discovered by audit of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and reported to the department head or responsible officer where the malpractice has occurred may be referred by the department head/responsible officer to the Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Human Resources Management, for appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with ST/AI/371, if the preliminary investigation appears to indicate that the report of misconduct is well founded, that is, if the financial malpractice appears to constitute misconduct.

3. Financial malpractice that does not appear to constitute misconduct and is not reported to the Office of Human Resources Management may be handled at the departmental level.

4. Once received by the Office of Human Resources Management, cases of financial malpractice are handled as all other disciplinary matters in accordance with the provisions of ST/AI/371, so as to ensure that procedural and due process rights are respected. The first step in the disciplinary process is an examination of the complete dossier by the Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Human Resources Management, for the purpose of deciding whether the case should be pursued as a disciplinary matter and, if so, whether suspension from duty is warranted. If the disciplinary case is to be pursued, written allegations are prepared and served on the staff member who is given an opportunity to reply in writing. The staff member is also advised of his/her right to counsel and, if suspended, of the reason therefor. The Assistant Secretary-General examines the reply in the context of the complete dossier and decides whether the case warrants summary dismissal for serious and patent misconduct, whether the matter should be referred for consideration by a Joint Disciplinary

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Committee or whether the explanation of the staff member is satisfactory and justifies closing the matter at the disciplinary level.

5. If closed as a disciplinary case, the financial malpractice issue may be pursued by the department as a matter of performance. In some cases a letter of caution or reprimand (non-disciplinary measures) may be issued, if appropriate, and/or the performance appraisal or special report may reflect the staff member's quality of performance. In addition, staff rule 112.3 on financial responsibility may be imposed.

6. If the staff member is summarily dismissed, he/she loses the termination indemnity and repatriation grant, which would have otherwise accrued to his/her benefit upon separation.

7. If the matter is referred to a Joint Disciplinary Committee, any of the disciplinary measures specified in chapter X of the Staff Rules may be recommended. The Under-Secretary-General, Department of Management, may then decide, on behalf of the Secretary-General, what disciplinary measure(s) to impose.

8. Of the 61 cases of possible misconduct submitted in 1997 to the Assistant Secretary-General, Office of Human Resources Management, 7 were referred as a result of an audit/Office of Internal Oversight Services investigation. Four of those seven resulted in a decision of summary dismissal, one is being handled by the International Trade Centre/UNCTAD/WTO under its delegation of authority, one is being prepared for submission to the Joint Disciplinary Committee, and one is at the stage of consideration as to whether or not to pursue it as a disciplinary matter.

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Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

Comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the administration and management of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/51/777), dated 20 January 1997, which contains the comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the administration and management of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), and an advance copy of the report of the Secretary-General dated 6 March 1998 (A/52/819), which contains updated information on the status of the special account of UNTAC and its additional financial requirements. During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Security Council, in its resolution 717 (1991) of 16 October 1991, established a United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) following the signature of the Paris agreements on a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian conflict. On 28 February 1992, the Security Council, in its resolution 745 (1992), established the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) for a period not to exceed 18 months. UNTAC absorbed UNAMIC. In resolution 840 (1993) of 15 June 1993, the Security Council endorsed the results of the election held from 23 to 28 May 1993.

3. The Committee also recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/255 of 26 May 1994, requested the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the administration and management of UNTAC, with a view to utilizing the experience in all other peacekeeping operations. In addition, the Advisory Committee, in paragraph 19 of its report on the financing and liquidation of the Mission (A/49/867), further requested that the mentioned report include information on losses, through any means, of assets of peacekeeping operations that had occurred in the past three years. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that that information would be provided in a separate report to be submitted to the General Assembly during May 1998.

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Comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the administration and management of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

4. The Advisory Committee commends the Secretary-General for the excellent quality of the evaluation report submitted (A/51/777). The report not only provides a good analysis, outlining the different problems that were encountered throughout all phases of the Mission and indicating the different measures that were taken to alleviate or resolve those problems, but it also points out the new policies and procedures that were instituted as a result of the lessons learned in the administrative and management areas from the UNTAC experience, thus enhancing the Organization's capacity in the area of peacekeeping. Paragraph 103 of the Secretary-General's report further indicates that "enhancing the Organization's capacity in the area of peacekeeping, as well as improving the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of field operations, are constant, ongoing processes, requiring support and assistance from the Member States and their individual and collective input of expertise, personnel and other resources".

5. In paragraph 104 of his report, the Secretary-General further points out that the thread running through the report and others presented in relation to improving the capacity of the Organization for peacekeeping, is that "the lack of human resources, and scarcity of skilled and experienced staff and the need for such staff both at Headquarters and in the field, not only constrains the ability of the Organization as a whole and of the individual missions to resolve many problems and shortcomings, but in fact also leads to the creation of some of those very problems".

6. The Committee sought further information in this regard and was informed that a joint working group from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of Human Resources Management was currently addressing some of the personnel issues. Moreover, the Committee requested an update on the status of development of some of the measures mentioned in the report, such as the preparation of an air operations manual to ensure maximum efficiency and effectiveness of air resources (para. 84), among others. The information provided to the Committee is attached as annex I to the present report.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General should be encouraged to continue the evaluation exercise for other peacekeeping operations. These evaluations should include an analysis not only of problems encountered and measures undertaken to correct those shortcomings, but also of those problems which are still unsolved, and should contain proposals for solutions.

Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

8. As indicated in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General (A/52/819), resources made available to the Mission, for the period from inception on 1 November 1991 to 31 March 1994, amount to $1,796,629,200 gross ($1,768,006,900 net). Expenditures for the same period amount to $1,652,007,800 gross ($1,628,298,500 net), and an amount of $162,345,800 gross ($160,941,000 net) was credited to Member States. The Committee notes that expenditures reported include the unliquidated obligations of $15,673,100 indicated in annex V to the report. The Committee was informed that this amount corresponds to amounts due to Governments only.

9. Paragraph 14 of the same report indicates that a total net amount of $1,568,169,603 has been assessed on Member States for the period from 1 November 1991 to 30 June 1994 for both UNAMIC and UNTAC, while contributions received as of 31 January 1998 totalled $1,521,989,620 for both operations, resulting in an outstanding balance of $46,179,983.

10. From the information provided in annexes I and II to the report, the Committee notes that an amount of $34,435,000 has been credited to the special account of UNTAC, which consists of $6,944,000 in interest income, and $27,491,000 in miscellaneous income. The Committee was informed during its hearings that the income related to the disposal of the Mission's assets is included under other miscellaneous income ($5,983,000). Moreover, the amounts provided to the Committee indicated income from the sale of vehicles of $2,124,886 and from the sale of equipment of $2,961,837. The Committee further notes, however, that from the total amount credited as income, $32,562,900 gross ($25,691,600 net) would be utilized to cover the appropriation mandated by the General Assembly in paragraph 9 of its resolution 48/255, which has not been assessed.

11. The Committee requested additional information with regard to the expenditures associated with the liquidation phase of UNTAC for the period from 1 October 1993 to 31 December 1995. The information received is attached as annex II to the present report. The Committee notes that, of the total appropriated amount of $66,902,600 gross, expenditures reported total $70,225,500.

12. The Secretary-General's report (para. 13 and annex III) indicates that an additional amount of $17,724,400 is

required for the period from 1 November 1991 to 30 June 1997. This results from additional requirements for military personnel costs ($32,058,900), which includes over-expenditures of $6,519,900 under military contingents, additional requirements of $1,277,900 under death and disability, and additional requirements of $24,378,600 under contingent-owned equipment. The Committee was informed that the additional requirements for death and disability do not provide for any additional claims that could be received and that, of the 21 claims received in connection with contingent-owned equipment, all but one had been reviewed and certified. Moreover, of the total estimated amount of $64.6 million for such claims, an amount of $38.5 million has already been reimbursed to Governments.

13. As regards the over-expenditure of $2,731,400 under air operations, the Committee was informed that this resulted from the increase in the number of hours flown by the helicopters during the elections, which led to an increase in the cost of aviation fuel and lubricants for the entire operation. In view of the security situation and inadequacy of runways capable of handling medium and heavy fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters had to be used for the movement of personnel and supplies.

14. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-second session are indicated in paragraph 16 of the report of the Secretary-general (A/52/819). With regard to paragraph 16 (a), the Committee notes that the assessment of the amount of $32,562,900 gross ($25,691,600 net), appropriated by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/255, would be offset by the same amount, composed of interest income and miscellaneous income, in accordance with paragraph 9 of resolution 48/255, and mentioned in paragraph 10 above. The Committee further recommends the appropriation and assessment of the additional amount of $17,724,400 gross ($21,232,600 net) indicated in paragraph 16 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General. As regards the decision on the treatment of the balance of the cumulative miscellaneous income of $8,743,400 indicated in paragraph 16 (c), the Committee recommends that it be credited back to Member States in a manner to be decided by the General Assembly. In connection with the action involved in paragraph 16 (d), the Committee recalls that, in its previous report (A/49/867), it had already indicated that it had no objection to the application to UNTAC of the special arrangements as regards article IV of the Financial Regulations. In connection with paragraph 16 (e), the General Assembly may wish to transfer any surplus arising from the eventual liquidation of the remaining obligations in the special account of UNTAC to the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund, as it decided in paragraph 14 of resolution 50/246 of 17 September 1996 on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

Annex I

Implementation of tasks identified in the report of the Secretary-General of 20 January 1998 (A/51/777) on comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the administration and management of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia

1. In the above-mentioned report, the Secretary-General indicated that further actions need to be taken in a number of areas to enhance the capacity of the Organization in supporting and managing its peacekeeping operations. First of all, this relates to the fundamental issue of availability of personnel with requisite experience and knowledge of United Nations policies and procedures. In order to address some of the human resources-related problems, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office of Human Resources Management established a working group on personnel issues, within the framework of which the following issues are discussed and actioned:

(a) Requirements of peacekeeping operations as regards Chief Administrative Officers and other key administrative personnel;

(b) Personnel policy development, including the development of the 300 series of appointments of limited duration specifically designed to meet the needs of field missions and simplify personnel administration;

(c) Compensation and contractual issues involved in the employment of field personnel;

(d) Monitoring of the exercise of delegated authority in the recruitment and placement of staff and the administration of their salary, benefits and entitlements.

2. In cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management, the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations introduced a number of measures which improved the efficiency of personnel recruitment and deployment practices, which resulted in better planning of mission staffing requirements, diversification of personnel recruitment sources and reduced the recruitment cycle to four to six weeks. Better control over recruitment and staffing processes, and tracking and management of travel and vacancies have been introduced with the development of the Personnel Module of the Peacekeeping Database. Training and development of personnel for field assignments is now ongoing both at Headquarters and, as far as practicable, in the field.

3. Another group of problems relates to the responsiveness of the Organization's policies and practices in providing administrative support to the field operations. The Field Administration and Logistics Division actively participates in addressing these issues in the context of a number of working groups that were established by the Task Force on Common Services in June 1997 in such areas as procurement, transportation and traffic operations (including issuance of claims), information technology (including telecommunications and networks), the Integrated Management Information System, personnel services, financial and legal services. The work in these groups is progressing steadily.

4. On the specific issues related directly to the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the following progress has been achieved (as per the pertinent paragraphs of the report of the Secretary-General):

Paragraph 28	Global Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Volunteers programme on participation of United Nations Volunteers in peacekeeping operations is under preparation;
Paragraph 31	From 1996 to 1998, 11 regional workshops and training seminars were organized in New Delhi, Cairo, Turin, Rio de Janeiro, Accra, Singapore, Lusaka and other cities for representatives of Member States responsible for the selection of military observers and civilian police for peacekeeping mission assignment, in order to familiarize them more effectively with, *inter alia*, the training and qualifications criteria established by the Organization;
Paragraph 59	The Field Administration and Logistics Division is finalizing preparation of specifications for standardization of prefabricated buildings in peacekeeping operations;

Paragraph 84	The Field Administration and Logistics Division issued the Aviation Safety Manual in 1997 and the Aviation Vendors and Aircraft Inspection Checklist in 1998, and is finalizing preparation of the Air Operations Manual and the Aviation Safety Survey Checklist;
Paragraph 100	(Provisional) Guidelines for the Liquidation of Field Missions were promulgated in 1996.

Annex II

United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia: expenditures-liquidation phase from 1 October 1993 to 31 December 1995 as at 28 February 1998

(In United States dollars)

	Approved resources				
	1 October to 31 December 1993	*1 January to 30 June 1994*	*Total*	*Expenditure*	*Variance*
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)+(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)=(3)-(4)*
1. Military personnel costs					
(a) Military observers	1 863.9	—	1 863.9	1 799.0	64.9
(b) Military contingents	10 446.3	—	10 446.3	10 852.0	(405.7)
(c) Other costs pertaining to military personnel	—	—	—	1 369.0	(1 369.0)
Total, line 1	**12 310.2**	**—**	**12 310.2**	**14 020.0**	**(1 709.8)**
2. Civilian personnel costs					
(a) Civilian police	308.0	—	308.0	303.0	5.0
(b) International and local staff	14 763.1	6 664.2	21 427.3	24 762.0	(3 334.7)
(c) United Nations Volunteers	1 177.5	319.5	1 497.0	—	1 497.0
Total, line 2	**16 248.6**	**6 983.7**	**23 232.3**	**25 065.0**	**(1 832.7)**
3. Premises/accommodation	2 282.5	289.0	2 571.5	2 425.0	146.5
4. Infrastructure repairs	22.1	—	22.1	—	22.1
5. Transport operations	1 628.3	36.0	1 664.3	1 964.0	(299.7)
6. Air operations	6 832.2	40.0	6 872.2	7 330.0	(457.8)
7. Naval operations	323.0	—	323.0	—	323.0
8. Communications	1 007.6	60.0	1 067.6	849.0	218.6
9. Other equipment	188.2	—	188.2	258.0	(69.8)
10. Supplies and services	2 534.9	151.0	2 685.9	2 945.0	(259.1)
11. Election-related supplies and services	—	—	—	—	—
12. Public information programmes	—	—	—	—	—
13. Training programmes	—	—	—	—	—
14. Mine-clearing programmes	—	—	—	—	—

	Approved resources				
	1 October to 31 December 1993	*1 January to 30 June 1994*	*Total*	*Expenditure*	*Variance*
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3) (1)+(2)*	*(4)*	*(5) (3)-(4)*
15. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	—	—	—	—	—
16. Air and surface freight	11 082.3	—	11 082.3	9 676.0	1 406.3
17. Support account for peacekeeping operations	1 254.9	566.5	1 821.4	1 822.0	(0.6)
18. Staff assessment	2 017.2	1 044.4	3 061.6	3 871.5	(809.9)
19. Integrated Management Information System	—	—	—	—	—
Gross total, lines 1-19	**57 732.0**	**9 170.6**	**66 902.6**	**70 225.5**	**(3 322.9)**
20. Income from staff assessment	(2 017.2)	(1 044.4)	(3 061.6)	(3 871.5)	809.9
Net total, lines 19-20	**55 714.8**	**8 126.2**	**63 841.0**	**66 354.0**	**(2 513.0)**

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 61
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 1 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 April 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which contains a letter of His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 25 March 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 1 April 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the letter dated 25 March 1998 addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the plans of the Greek Cypriot administration to deploy Greek combat aircraft at the Paphos military airbase in South Cyprus (see appendix).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its appendix circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

APPENDIX

Letter dated 25 March 1998 from Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter dated 25 January 1998 concerning the Paphos military airbase which has been taken over by the Greek Cypriot administration on 24 January for use by the Greek air force, I would like to bring to your kind attention a new disturbing development regarding the plans of the Greek Cypriot administration to establish an air force which, if pursued, would constitute a serious destabilizing factor both in the island and the region.

In a recent interview published in the Greek newspaper, Eksusia on 18 March 1998, the Greek Cypriot Defence Minister, Mr. Yannakis Omiru, stated, inter alia, that he favoured the creation of a Greek Cypriot air force and that it was now being seriously considered. It is also noteworthy in this context that, according to various sources, including the Greek Cypriot press, the permanent deployment of Greek combat aircraft which will bear the official symbol of the so-called "Republic of Cyprus" as a precaution in the face of possible international reaction, is included in the plans.

In view of the fact that such provocative steps by the Greek Cypriot side, namely, the decision to deploy S-300 missile systems in South Cyprus and the construction of the Paphos military airbase itself for the use and deployment of Greek combat aircraft, have brought the parties concerned to the threshold of new crises in the past one and a half years, recent revelations prove beyond doubt that the Greek-Greek Cypriot military moves are aimed at disturbing the existing military balance in the island the eastern Mediterranean in their favour, at all costs, and in complete violation of the international treaties governing Cyprus.

It will be appreciated that this provocative and highly adventurous stance of the Greek-Greek Cypriot front does not augur well for their intentions and is further poisoning the political atmosphere of the island at a time when goodwill and mutual trust are most needed as we are trying to establish a new basis for dialogue.

The Turkish Cypriot side is well aware of the fact that the efforts of the Greek Cypriot side, both at the military and the political front, is aimed at destroying the internal and the external balances created by the 1960 treaties between the two constituent peoples and the two motherlands respectively, and is determined to stand in the way of this Greek-Greek Cypriot aspiration.

We hope that you will do your utmost in impressing upon the Greek Cypriot leadership to abandon their current confrontational stance and refrain from taking irresponsible steps in the interest of peace and stability at this crucial juncture in the Cyprus question.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President